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LETTER DATED 4 JULY 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the letter from His Excellency Mr. Dobrica Cosic, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 4 July 1992 from the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

I trust that you are aware that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, as a founding and active Member of the United Nations, is continuing conscientiously to honour all its international commitments under international law and the Charter of the United Nations and has exerted maximum efforts and complied with all its obligations arising from resolutions 752 (1992) and 757 (1992). And, at the same time, a number of concrete steps have been taken, primarily vis-à-vis the Serb leadership in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a view to the cessation of conflicts and the resumption of negotiations to settle the problem peacefully.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is not the aggressor in Bosnia and Herzegovina, because what is going on there is civil war, i.e., a clash between three national armies upon which influence is being brought to bear from various quarters. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is not involved in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a warring party. It is well known that not a single soldier from the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is in Bosnia and Herzegovina any more. On the contrary, over 30,000 Muslim refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina have fled to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and their number is constantly growing. It is also general knowledge that the General Staff of the army of Yugoslavia have no command over ex-Yugoslav People's Army officers who have joined the armies of either the Serb, Muslim or Croat peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina, like those in the armies of Croatia and Slovenia. Respecting first and foremost its own borders defined under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the decision of the United Nations Security Council, since 19 May in no instance has the army of Yugoslavia violated the territory of any neighbouring State. It is also a fact that even humanitarian relief transport planes waited for days for permission from international organizations to take off for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Declaration of the Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia issued on the occasion of the proclamation of the new State asseverates that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia shall be prepared fully to respect the rights and interests of the Yugoslav republics which have declared independence and that recognition of the new States would follow the negotiated settlement of all outstanding issues being discussed within the framework of the Conference on Yugoslavia. Yugoslavia has also suggested that an international conference on Bosnia and Herzegovina be organized as well under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Presidents of the Council of the Economic Community and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and representatives of the five parties concerned from the former Socialist Federal Republic of

Yugoslavia, provision being made for the expansion of its mandate to also address all other problems arising from the former Yugoslavia.

Respecting the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the CSCE documents, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remains strictly committed to the principle of non-use of force in resolving any outstanding issue. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has publicly declared that it has no territorial claims whatsoever vis-à-vis anyone in its environs. It is in the vital interest of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that peace be fully restored as soon as possible and a political solution to the problem found on the basis of agreement between all the three constituent nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as an embargo under Chapter VII of the Charter hit the innocent population the hardest. This is particularly true of the humanitarian field. In addition, these unjust and one-sided sanctions also severely affect our athletes who are not allowed to compete at international events. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia appreciates very much the efforts the International Olympic Committee is making to enable Yugoslav athletes to take part in the Olympic Games at Barcelona.

Never so far has the international community used sports for political purposes, it being among the noblest forms in which the young generation expresses itself. I hope that this area, one of the most beautiful expressions of human freedoms, will not be used in the future either as a means of political competition as that is deeply contrary to its very substance and its fundamental messages and principles of autonomy and universality.

The imposition of sanctions also in the field of sports has meant the unjustified pillorying of Yugoslav athletes for something that they have not done. For eight decades, Yugoslav athletes valiantly represented the Yugoslav colours always abiding by the basic Olympic principles and the Olympic spirit, the charter of the International Olympic Committee and the standards of international sports federations. Throughout the years they scored numerous important results at various international events and won 110 Olympic, 885 European and 1,171 world medals. Today, regrettably, they are being barred from participating even at the upcoming Olympic Games.

Yugoslav's athletes should not be the victims nor bear the consequences of the tragic war in parts of the newly formed States because they have neither participated in it nor contributed to it in any way whatsoever.

In keeping with the aforementioned, may I request you to initiate proceedings for the lifting of sanctions imposed on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia or their at least partial mitigation, in particular where humanitarian needs are concerned. May I also request you to look into the

possibility of lifting the sanctions in respect of Yugoslav athletes. As bridges of friendship among the nations of the world, athletes should not be punished in so drastic a way.

Dobrica COSIC
President